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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002475

SIPDIS

STATE FOR S, D, P, EUR/SE, EUR/RPM, SA, PM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/03/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: TURKISH HELOS TO AFGHANISTAN: DECISION IS WITH THE PM

REF: ANKARA 2293

(U) Classified by Ambassador Eric S. Edelman. Reasons: 1.5 (B and D).

[11.](#) (C) MFA NATO Department Head Alper Coksun told deputy pol-mil counselor May 3 that Turkey and Luxembourg had worked out an acceptable arrangement for Luxembourg to finance the deployment of the three Turkish helos to/from Afghanistan in support of ISAF operations. Funding for spare parts and maintenance is the only outstanding issue. Coksun confirmed that TGS has asked the PM to provide \$1.5M for space parts/maintenance (reftel), and said the decision was currently with PM.

[12.](#) (C) Following up the President's telephone call with PM Erdogan, Amb. telephoned MFA U/S Ziyal May 1. Ziyal, after conferring with TGS D/CHOD GEN Basbug (who was in London), told the Amb. May 3 that there were two main issues associated with the helicopters: one, the Turkish military had lost a number of helos during the past year and did not have many left in its inventory; and two, funding.

[13.](#) (C) DCM telephoned PM Foreign Policy Advisor Amb. Arat May [13.](#) He told Arat we understood that TGS's request for funding for the spare parts and maintenance for the three helos was with the PM. The DCM stressed it was important for TGS CHOD GEN Ozkok to announce during the NATO CHOD meeting May 5-6 in Brussels that Turkey was prepared to deploy the three helos to Afghanistan. Arat confirmed that Turkey and Luxembourg had worked out financing arrangements for the deployment/re-deployment of the three helos. He noted the GOT was focusing on resolving the outstanding issues related to the three helos before moving on to the President's request for the additional four. DCM informed Arat that the USG recently had authorized \$35M in FMF financing for FY04 for Turkey, and explained that these funds were designed to increase Turkey's ability to contribute to operations such as ISAF. He reiterated his earlier request that the GOT resolve the outstanding issues in time for Ozkok to make a positive statement in Brussels. Arat said he understood and said he would talk to PM Erdogan directly about the helicopters.

[14.](#) (C) Kabul minimize considered.
EDELMAN